Virgil J. Perez

March 27, 2012

Article Number: 2

Course CMP 230

Professor V. Harris M.ED.

Article URL: www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/12/us-italy-leonardo-idUSBRE82B0XV20120312

Article Summary

As an art lover and dedicated aficionado to Leonardo Da Vinci’s work, I was fascinated by the recent news of finding a “lost Leonardo.” As such I watched the special aired on National Geographic Channel on March 12, 2012, where a group of scientist, art critics, art historians, newspaper reporters, politicians, and other influential people watched as [Maurizio Seracini](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/bios/maurizio-seracini/), an art diagnostician at the University of California, San Diego, and a National Geographic Society fellow, searched for clues about the painting. Mr. Seracini has dedicated more than for 36 years to this particular endeavor.

The search and goal was to find where 'The Battle of Anghiari' could have been painted, and if it's still where Mr. Seracini has said it is. Using a tiny camera, the researchers snapped pictures of a significant hollow space behind Giorgio Vasari's "Battle of Marciano," and a brick wall in the Hall of the 500 in the Palazzo Vecchio, [Florence](http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/city-guides/florence-italy/)'s city hall. They also uncovered black pigment and lacquer used in painting, clues that the lost Leonardo may have long ago been saved from destruction. The lost work in question is "The Battle of Anghiari" and may stretch more than 20 feet (6 meters) long and 10 feet (3 meters) tall.

Reflection

This is a fascinating event which point to how experts and those seeking the truth about things do not give up easily. Seracini has been at this for 36 years. People all around have tried to discredit him and his group, and indirectly National Geographic for funding a project that is considered fruitless.

The controversy of this project is due to the lack of agreement among the parties involved, mainly for lack of evidence, and because they fear that drilling holes in a master piece to search for another is simply madness. Not all parties involved agree that the Leonardo work is behind the wall.

Although all traces of the original mural by Da Vinci were lost or not found, one can only wonder what Giorgio Vasari felt when painting his mural, "The Battle of Marciano," to accommodate the higher walls.

I’m of the belief, with prejudice of course, that Leonardo’s work is behind the wall where Vasari’s work is in place. As such, work should be allowed to continue to either debunk the story, or finally, after more than 500 years find another work by the great Master. However, the question lingers on, what will be done if the “lost Leonardo” is found?

Please try to remember we are talking about ***Leonardo da Vinci, the genius of geni***, known all over the world and incomparable in terms of fame. What do you think?